THE EARLY WORK OF AUBREY BEARDSLEY

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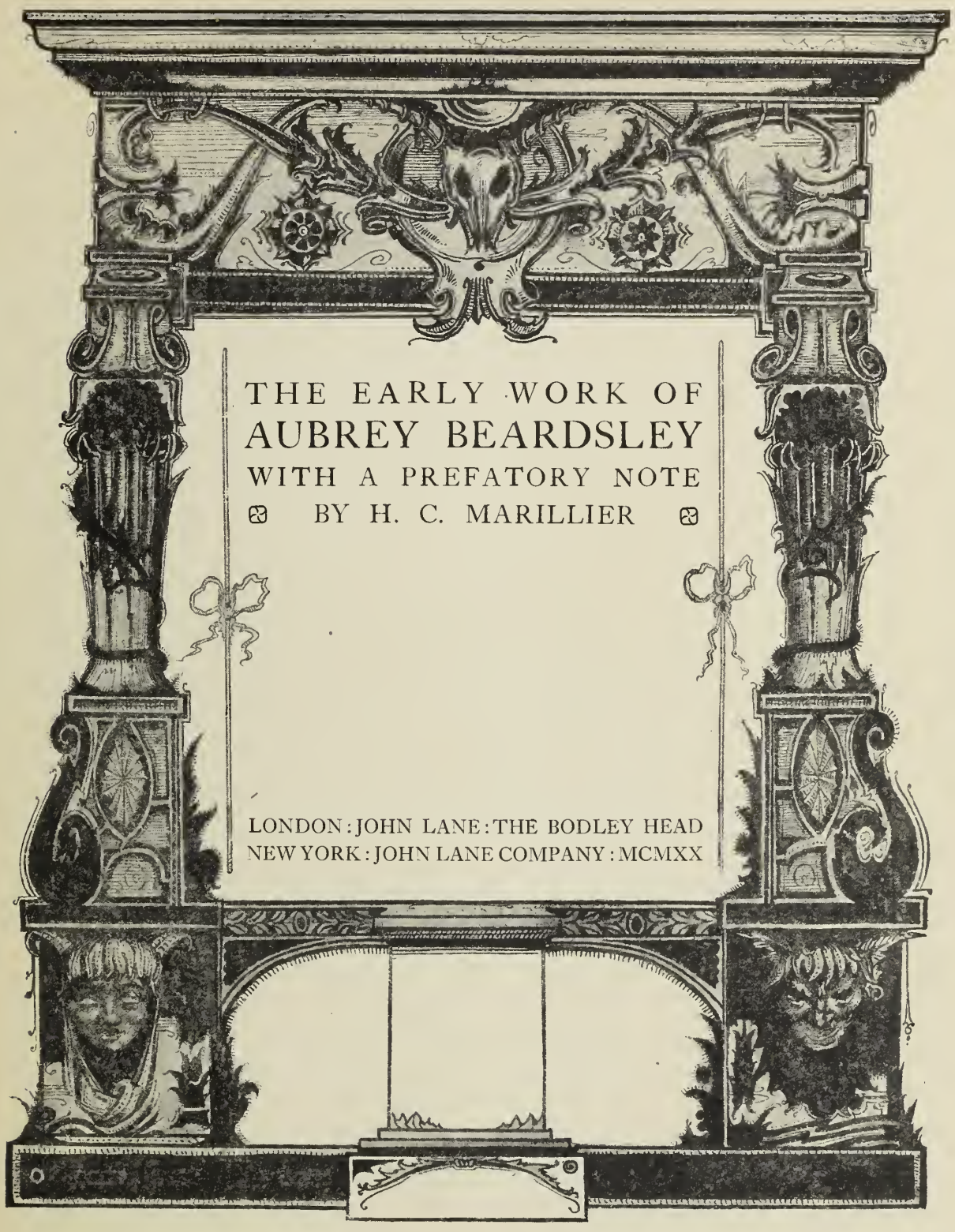
Aubrey Beardsley.



THE EARLY WORK OF AUBREY BEARDSLEY

WITH A PREFATORY NOTE

BY H. C. MARILLIER

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

THERE has been considerable rearrangement of the plates. Many that originally appeared in the " Later Work " are now transferred to this volume, and conversely, in order to preserve a proper chronological sequence.

Aubrey Vincent Beardsley

Born August 24, 1872—*Died March* 16, 1898

ONE hears it asserted, with a confidence that possibly may be born of a wish, that " the Beardsley craze is dead." For such as truly hold this belief it can never have been very much alive ; nor is there reason why it should have been. The suddenness of Beardsley's leap into notoriety, the curiosity excited by his audacious invention and novel style, the puzzlement that his work produced on the minds of a steady-going public, sensitive to shocks, are sufficient justification in themselves for those who can see in him only a transient " craze." Beardsley never could have been, and never was, intended for the many. His work is seldom of a kind that could be described as popular: Much of it, indeed, is so deliberately regardless of popular prejudices and conventions that one cannot wonder if the public at large found voice to protest against the effronteries of Beardsley at large, and objected to the inroads made upon their forbearance by what they could only regard as incomprehensible manifestations of an unmentionable phase of life.

Making all possible allowance for this attitude, however, it remains a truism that objections do not kill. To a young and rising artist they are as wholesome nutriment as praise ; frequently more wholesome. And Beardsley had both. Extravagantly praised and extravagantly hated, he worked in an atmosphere of exotic stimulus which was largely responsible for the eccentricities that developed themselves in his art and in his character. Pricked on upon one hand by the lavish admiration of a group which saw

in him more genius than he was really conscious of himself, piqued on the other by the exclamations of a public he was delighted to offend, it is small wonder that his work presented a seesaw appearance, ranging from the nearly sublime to the more than frankly ridiculous. It is this variability, coupled with an extraordinary versatility for changing his style and adopting new ones, that makes it difficult to estimate the true position of Beardsley in the pantheon of art. There are some points, such as the exquisite quality of his drawing, on which all critics are agreed; there are still more on which no two of them can think alike. Yet, however much we agree or however much we differ in our estimation of his work, one thing at least must be said in reply to those who are so confident of his extermination —viz. that to speak of Beardsley as "dead" in any but the mere physical sense, which those who knew him best have most cause to deplore, is an error against Truth as well as against the facts. We may leave Truth to take care of herself. Time and art will vindicate her. But as regards facts, which are often a different thing, it may be necessary to point out that the demand for Beardsley's work, which in his lifetime was satisfied by a few monthly instalments in certain recognized periodicals, and a sporadic sprinkling of casual contributions besides, has grown within the last few months, since his death, so much as to call for three distinct collections, of which the present is the largest in size, as well as, from some points of view, the most important in scope and interest.

The Beardsley "craze," indeed—if "craze" there be—is really just beginning. Those who could appreciate the sterling qualities of his work have already done so, and have probably collected for themselves the scattered outpourings (and occasional off-scourings) of his imagination, marred, as they too often were, by faults of printing or of reproduction. It would be interesting to know how many such collections exist, as they would probably afford some insight into the number of Beardsley's genuine ad-

mirers, whose admiration enabled him to thrive. The sumptuous compilations which we are now considering betoken a different public altogether, or at the least a renewed curiosity which requires to be pampered. It is in such passive admiration that there lie the makings of a "craze." Not that any one need be less inclined on that account to welcome the reappearance of Beardsley's masterpieces, decently printed, with suitable margins, and in many cases shown for the first time on a scale calculated to do justice to the subtle fineness of the artist's inimitable line-work. Nor will the faithful, I imagine, have cause for regret, seeing themselves enriched at one swoop by the acquisition of very many drawings now difficult to obtain in the form in which they originally appeared, and of not a few others which but for the opportunity thus afforded would never have been published at all. Educationally, moreover, these books should have some value, not necessarily as showing the public what they ought to admire, for each generation will have its own views on this point, but as summarizing in a convenient form for reference a phase of art which is extremely interesting in itself, and which has exerted an influence over contemporary artists quite out of proportion to its quantity, to the age and standing of its author, and to the dignity of the subjects with which it treats. It is significant that, although Beardsley has had numerous imitators on both sides of the Atlantic, in his own particular line of work he has remained without a rival. He is not only the inventor, but *par excellence* the master, of his methods. How, except by a freak of nature, so marvellous an intuition and so perfect a mastery of style ever fell to the lot of an untrained boyish hand, we can never tell. Minerva-like, Aubrey Beardsley seems to have come into the world ready equipped with genius and the power of execution, and so must take his place amongst the rapidly growing ranks of *Wunderkinder*. There is something in the age which tends towards the specialization of children. Musical prodigies have almost ceased to

attract attention, so numerous have they become ; and, although precocity in art is rarer than in music, we have at least one classical instance in Oliver Madox Brown, and we see the two little Detmolds exhibiting year after year, alongside adult work, pictures of matured expression and technique. Beardsley was not so precocious as this. His schoolboy drawings, of which several specimens appeared in *Past and Present*, the magazine of the Brighton Grammar School, are as healthily crude and jejune as any one could desire. It was not until he was eighteen or nineteen, an age when most artists are content to be grinding at the student mill, that Aubrey Beardsley (skipping studenthood) came forward with the drawings that at once began to make him famous. In the short six years of his artistic life, years quite unvaried by adventure, and curtailed by a ravaging disease that periodically incapacitated him from working, there are few incidents that have not already been noted. It is going over old ground to relate how Mr. Joseph Pennell, whose discoveries of latent art in England are amongst the triumphs of critical exploration, also discovered Beardsley, or at least gave him his first public notice, a glowing eulogy in the opening number of *The Studio* (April 1893), which was accompanied by reproductions of " The Birthday of Madame Cigale," the " Revenants de la Musique," " Siegfried," " Salome with John the Baptist's Head," and some drawings done for the " Morte d'Arthur." Beardsley at this time, when Mr. Pennell, like Cimabue, found him doing wonderful things with his hands, and exploited him, was in his twentieth year and, although not tending sheep as the parallel might suggest, was slaving at an uncongenial desk in an insurance office. Such drawings as he had were done in leisure hours for his own amusement. Of training he had had none, unless a brief experience of an architect's drawing office could count as such. But now, acting on the advice of Mr. (the late Sir Edward) Burne-Jones, and of M. Puvis de Chavannes, both of whom thought they saw in his early efforts the promise of a brave

recruit to the ranks of romantic illustrators, Beardsley abandoned business and took to art as a profession, putting in for a time a desultory attendance at the famous studio of Mr. Fred Brown. He had little difficulty in obtaining work. Even before the appearance of Mr. Pennell's article in *The Studio* he had, through the instrumentality of Mr. Frederick H. Evans, always one of his warmest friends, entered into an undertaking to illustrate the two-volume edition of Malory's " Morte d'Arthur " for Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co., a task which might well have left him reasonably satisfied and busy for some considerable time, but which, as events turned out, proved a bitter thorn in the flesh. Beardsley, as most publishers who dealt with him knew to their cost, was a curiously nervous and fickle creature. If work pleased him, he was exultant and prompt with it ; if it bored him, wild horses could scarcely get it from him. The most sacred engagements, the loudest imprecations, failed to move him if they conflicted with his humour at the moment, and, knowing what difficulty he had in bringing himself to complete the promised drawings for the " Morte d'Arthur," one's only wonder is that so little falling off from his original standard is visible in the second volume of the work. Had the drawings been done in the order in which they appeared, the degradation, it is said, would have been more apparent than it actually is. But, making all allowances, the " Morte d'Arthur " illustrations are a wonderful accomplishment for a boy of twenty. The amount of invention, to say nothing of the execution, lavished upon the five hundred and forty-eight vignettes and decorative borders, is prodigious, whilst some of the full-page and double-page pictures show a power of composition and a daintiness of drawing that Beardsley himself never improved upon and that no imitator has succeeded in capturing. It is a pity, and it is one of the things which discouraged Beardsley in the work, that the conditions of the book required a scale of reduction in the illustrations which totally fails to do justice to the fine quality of his

drawing ; and those who seek to find Beardsley's work in the vignettes or ornaments of the " Morte d'Arthur " should supplement their search by turning up the later full-sized reproductions which have been made of some of them.

The " Morte d'Arthur " was not the only work which Beardsley produced, or on which he was engaged, before the appearance of the first number of *The Studio*. Mr. Lewis Hind, who had left *The Studio* to edit *The Pall Mall Budget*, and in this way knew of the young illustrator's talents, employed him on several occasions in a more or less topical capacity. The results can hardly be called happy. The drawings done to illustrate Irving's " Becket " and the performance of " Orpheus " at the Lyceum, together with one or two other subjects which the manager of *The Pall Mall Gazette* has allowed to be reprinted here, speak volumes for Beardsley's incapacity to adapt himself to a style of work requiring rapid execution and affording no play to the imagination. With the possible exception of the portraits of Zola, and the four humorous sketches for " The New Coinage," Beardsley's incursion into topical journalism was a failure, and was abandoned after a few attempts. It was otherwise with his two contributions to *The Pall Mall Magazine*, also reprinted here, one of which, the design published in the second number of the Magazine (June 1893) under the fictitious title of " A Neophyte, and how the Black Art was revealed unto him by the Fiend Asomuel," remains to this day one of his most powerful and decorative achievements.

Towards the end of 1893, or the beginning of 1894, Beardsley formed an idea of preparing what he called a Book of Masques, and he was very full of this amongst his friends. The scheme was abandoned, but revived later on, in a new shape, when it was proposed to start *The Yellow Book* as a quarterly magazine, with Beardsley as art editor. It is in *The Yellow Book*, more than anywhere else, that Beardsley first came into contact—

one had written almost conflict—with the public. It is in connexion with *The Yellow Book*, probably, that he will be most widely remembered, and it is the *Yellow Book* period of his existence that is most prominently represented in this collection of his works. The method adopted by him during this period, though the outcome of previous efforts, is distinctive, and with kaleidoscopic versatility he branched into an altogether different one after its close. If one may employ an illustration from the science of embryology—one not inappropriate to Beardsley's peculiar cast of thought —his art was like the growth of an unborn organism, reflecting at different stages all the traits of a distant ancestry. We see it in a crude archaic form, striving with imperfect means to express the ideas which are already there. We trace its Pre-Raphaelite devotional stage ; its ripe classical period ; and at the last a sort of Romantic epoch, very sensitive and delicate, very decorative, and wonderfully elaborate. Taking the " Rape of the Lock " drawings as the cream of this last period, there is much to be said for the judgment of those who consider this work of Beardsley's the best that he ever did. But I doubt very much if it was the most characteristic of Beardsley. For this I believe one must go back to the year, or year and a half, when he was startling the public in the pages of *The Yellow Book*, and frightening even his publisher with the boldness of the drawings for " Salome." The public nerves, however, become gradually insensitive to one particular kind of shock, and thus it is that it has now become possible, I am glad to say, to publish many things which at the time were considered inadmissible. To this category belong two of the illustrations to " Salome," which were withdrawn for reasons difficult to penetrate, but doubtless valid at the time. Some other alterations which were made in Beardsley's work it is impossible to restore even if one would, and the wisdom of doing so is not always unquestionable. The *Yellow Book* period of Beardsley's activity not only includes the fifteen illustrations for " Salome," a com-

mission obtained for him by the early drawing published in *The Studio*, but also the long series of cover designs for the " Keynotes " novels, with their initial keys, and a sprinkling of frontispiece drawings for different books, of which that from " Earl Lavender " is one of the most striking and important. It is pleasant to find among the archives of *The Yellow Book* several unpublished treasures, such as the frontispiece done for a projected " Venus and Tannhäuser," the design of which has been used in the cover of this book, and another very decorative design which has been reproduced for a title-page. These alone are almost a justification, if one were needed, for publishing the collected works of Beardsley at this period.

I have ventured to sketch out Beardsley's career roughly in stages, from an embryological standpoint. The reference is opportune for mentioning an idea which I know is held by more than one sympathetic admirer, that if Beardsley had lived he would have developed into something totally different from what he was, possibly into a colourist of great subtlety and originality. He was in the common habit of colouring his black-and-white drawings after they had been reproduced, and one or two things done in colour—such as the sketch of Mdlle de Maupin in the possession of Mr. Leonard Smithers, and the original drawing of " Messalina "—reveal a charming feeling for colour, softened and weakened down as one might expect from such a frail constitution. Beardsley could hardly have been a vigorous colourist. But, be this as it may—and it is sheer guesswork—there is for those who can see it a remarkable suggestion of colour in some of his best black-and-whites. This is a quality possessed by only a few men, and Beardsley himself was quite conscious of it. It has no particular relevance, however, to the notion I have just mentioned, which regards the Beardsley we all know as a beginner cut short just as he was about to blossom forth, a student just about to attain his masterhood, an embryonic being stilled before his proper time of birth.

Aubrey Vincent Beardsley

Beardsley's personality has been admirably handled by Mr. Arthur Symons in the *Fortnightly*, and by "Max" in a recent number of *The Idler*. I cannot pretend to add anything to their knowledge, which was more intimate than my own. Beardsley, as I knew him, was a model of daintiness in dress, affected apparently for the purpose of concealing his artistic profession. It was part of his pose to baffle the world. He did it in his exterior manner as effectually as in his work. Those who imagine from the character of some of his subjects that Beardsley went about preaching or discussing vice are quite beyond the mark. Externally, at any rate, he was a pattern of moral decorum, warped only into such eccentricities as working by candle-light, with the shutters closed, at drawings of dubious propriety, when outside the sun was shining brightly on a healthy, virtuous world. He preferred candle-light, and he selected the subjects which amused his fancy, or tickled his instinct for *gaminerie*, and that's an end on't. Max Beerbohm conceives that his mind was still that of the schoolboy playing at being vicious, and rather attracted by naughtiness. This may be so, but at the same time it must be conceded that few artists have had such an extraordinarily deep penetration into the hidden abysses of sin, and such a lurid power of suggesting them. It would have been better for his reputation if he had not; but he chose to belong to a modern school of cynicism, and to depict life mostly in its more animal or brutish aspects; and that again is his own affair. It is the artist as he is that one must reckon with, not the artist we could have made him; and to condemn a man for adopting different ideas and a different standard from one's own is as absurd as condemning him for wearing different clothes—which, as a matter of fact, nine out of ten of us are quite ready to do.

It was really, as I think Mr. Symons has pointed out, a lack of reverence that was at the bottom of Beardsley's taste in subjects. He could draw beautiful subjects as beautifully as any one. I know few things more

flawless than his design of a " Venus standing between Terminal Gods," or " The Coiffing," which appeared in *The Savoy*. Certainly there is no suggestion of vice in these, or in scores of his other drawings. His " Venus and Tannhäuser " was to have contained no ugly suggestions. Even when in his love of shocking the public he deliberately chooses a vicious type, his true passion for beauty expresses itself in the manner of his execution. This manner of execution it has become fashionable to refer to as " Beardsley's line." I do not know who was first responsible for pointing out the beauties of the Beardsley " line," but, whoever it was, I could have wished that he had accompanied it with some explanation of what is meant by the phrase. Beardsley had many " lines," all exquisite in execution, and of varying degrees of fineness, the most remarkable being somewhat akin to an angler's line, as may be seen to perfection in the drawing for " Salome," entitled " The Peacock Skirt." But a " line," as the phrase is now commonly understood, such a " line " as that of Forain, eloquent in its bold simplicity of manifold unexpressed details, Beardsley does not seem, at all events to me, to possess. There may be hints of it. Mr. Gleeson White, in *The Studio*, instanced the wan, pinched face of the dead Pierrot in one of the *Savoy* illustrations, which none would dispute, and many of the outline drawings in this volume contain a sense of modelling, wonderfully implied ; but this compression of method is certainly not the main, nor even an important feature of Beardsley's work. Paradoxically I can imagine some one retorting that his forte is rather his " mass." The point is not worth pursuing, for it belongs to that slippery region of problems which depend upon the meaning of terms. Some people may see in Beardsley's work the perfection of what they call " line," and for them Beardsley's " line " must possess a definite technical meaning.

One thing at all events is clear, and that is, that Beardsley was essentially a decorative artist. All his arrangement and handling of subjects,

his treatment of the human figure, his use of landscape, was subordinate to the ultimate decorative effect. No trace of "naturalism" ever creeps in to mar the set convention of his work. In his treatment of nature he is as formal as any missal scribe of the fifteenth century, as mannered as the old Egyptian or the modern Japanese. Conformably, he was quite indifferent to what may be called the dramatic or historical unities. He would cheerfully clothe Isolde in an *outré* Parisian "confection," or Messalina in an ostrich-feather hat—nay, has done both. The decorative effect was all he cared for, and, if the public failed to appreciate the humour of his anachronisms, so much the worse for them. The source of his decorative inspirations has often been canvassed, though a good deal of it is fairly obvious. In his earliest drawings worthy of mention, the "Morte d'Arthur," the "Procession of Jeanne d'Arc," "Hamlet following the Ghost," "Hail Mary," "Perseus and the Monstre," and others which any one can find for himself, he was under considerable obligations to the most generous of his early patrons, Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Then the Japanese caught his wayward fancy and gave us the "Femme Incomprise" (*To-day* and *Idler*), "Madame Cigale," and indirectly much of the *Yellow Book* work, in which, however, he developed a new conceit, which fully deserves to rank as original. His passion for Pierrot, the most pathetic as well as the most humorous conception that has come down to us, stands evident in his latest as well as in some of his earliest work, and it is interesting to learn, on the authority of an old school friend, that he was immensely affected when a mere boy by the influence of "L'Enfant Prodigue." I have recently heard another theory advanced which may be worth mentioning, to account for the very persistent use of rococo ornamentation in his drawings of furniture, candelabra, wall-hangings, &c. This peculiarity is so striking as really to suggest some concrete source of inspiration, and, odd as it may sound, this source of inspiration was not improbably the florid gaudiness of the

interior of the Brighton Pavilion, of which, in his schooldays, Beardsley was something of an *habitué*. The Casino, at Dieppe, doubtless contributed also its quota of ideas. One might go on indefinitely proposing models for individual pieces of work, if one cared to and if the subject were worth pursuing. But, broadly, it may be taken as a fact that Beardsley, if himself inimitable, was nevertheless highly imitative ; that he could purloin a method, and so absorb it as to render it wholly his own ; that when he apparently changed his style with lightning rapidity, as in the transition from his *Yellow Book* to his " Rape of the Lock " manner, he did not really evolve some perfectly novel convention, but merely worked up a fresh " rave "—in this particular instance the style of the eighteenth-century French engravers.

That his transitions took a certain form and order I have ventured to indicate above, but the idea of a chronological or embryological sequence must not be pushed too far—indeed, it is necessary to qualify almost any statement that may be made about so complex and variable a being. Beardsley himself signified his consciousness of the breaks in his method of working by adopting successive forms of signature. In his earliest (juvenile) drawings he is always " A. V. B.," or " Aubrey V. Beardsley." Later he dropped the " V," and used only the first and third initials of his name. In the illustration to " Pastor Sang " he appears to acknowledge a debt to Dürer by ranging his initials in the form of the well-known Dürer monogram. He might more appropriately have borrowed the " L. H." of Mr. Housman. A long series of drawings, beginning with the " Questing Beast " plate in the " Morte d'Arthur," and continuing down through *The Pall Mall Budget*, " Salome," and what may be generically classified as the *Yellow Book* period, are signed with what has been called his Japanese mark, three strokes ranged in a particular manner, with or without dots or other ornamental accessories. The apotheosis of this device will be found on the reverse side of the cover of this volume, repro-

duced from the " Salome." In his later work Beardsley mostly wrote his two names in full, in capitals, along the bottom border line of the drawing. All sorts of variations occur at different times, which may mean something, or nothing. In an ordinary person they would mean nothing, but Beardsley was not an ordinary person, and his subtleties were infinite, inviting and yet often defying analysis.

Separate mention should be made in this connexion of the two drawings which appeared in *The Yellow Book* under fictitious signatures. These were the Mantegna head, which was signed " Philip Broughton," and a pastel study of a Frenchwoman, signed " Albert Foschter." Both are to be found reproduced in this volume in their proper places chronologically. Beardsley's purpose in indulging in this freak was an idea of " scoring off " the critics who were accustomed to attack his work as soon as it appeared. He did not care much about unfavourable criticism ; he rather enjoyed it than otherwise ; but he could not resist the temptation, during one of his transient avatars, of setting a trap by varying his style. Mr. Max Beerbohm declares that the plot was entirely successful, and that one reviewer solemnly advised Beardsley to " study and profit by the sound and scholarly draughtsmanship of which Mr. Philip Broughton furnished another example in his familiar manner." I must confess that, although I was in the secret of the *alias*, I never saw this profound piece of criticism upon it ; but, if it really appeared anywhere, I can well believe that Beardsley was " greatly amused and delighted " by it.

All who knew Beardsley will bear witness to many pleasant personal traits : his extraordinary love of music, his rippling wit, his wide range of reading, his capacity for hard work without even appearing to be busy. He worked mostly at night. His many sidedness has been briefly summed up in the first paragraph of Mr. Symons's memoir, which I venture to quote.

" He had the fatal speed of those who are to die young ; that dis-

quieting completeness and extent of knowledge, that absorption of a lifetime in an hour, which we find in those who hasten to have done their work before noon, knowing that they will not see the evening. He had played the piano in drawing-rooms as an infant prodigy, before, I suppose, he had ever drawn a line. Famous at twenty as a draughtsman, he found time, in those incredibly busy years which remained to him, deliberately to train himself as a writer of prose, which was in its way as original as his draughtsmanship, and into a writer of verse which had at least ingenious and original moments. He seemed to have read everything, and had his preferences as adroitly in order, as wittily in evidence, as almost any man of letters; indeed, he seemed to know more, and was a sounder critic, of books than of pictures; with perhaps a deeper feeling for music than for either. His conversation had a peculiar kind of brilliance, different in order, but scarce inferior in quality to that of any other contemporary master of that art; a salt, whimsical dogmatism, equally full of convinced egoism and of imperturbable keen-sightedness. Generally choosing to be paradoxical, and vehement on behalf of any enthusiasm of the mind, he was the dupe of none of his own statements, or indeed of his own enthusiasms, and, really, very coldly impartial. He thought, and was right in thinking, very highly of himself; he admired himself enormously; but his intellect would never allow itself to be deceived even about his own accomplishments."

What drove him out of his many different accomplishments to seek art as his chief field is not quite clear. It may have been the advice of Burne-Jones and of Puvis de Chavannes; it may have been the scent of an immediate and satisfying *réclame*; it may have been the necessity for making money. Probably all of these causes conspired. Why, turned artist, he should have developed such a grim satirical humour, is equally uncertain, unless it were his affection for Juvenal grafted on the bitterness of one who knows that he is in the grip of death, that few and evil must

be the days of his life. Over all this, like Pierrot, he wore a brave mask, and faced his tragedy with a show of laughter. How he suffered, how he worked, he never permitted to be seen. If the irony took a grim form sometimes in the jests that he flung to the public, in the scorn he allowed himself to feel for a world that had not got to die, can we wonder ? Pierrot's humour has mostly a subacidity, or we should fail to relish it.

Those who live healthy normal lives, unracked by hæmorrhage, untroubled by genius, may try to picture the life of one harassed by both at once. They may hate the man's work if they must, and if their souls are built that way, but they might try and find some spark of sympathy and admiration for the man. One can scarcely realize what it means to have only six real years of life, and to feel that they are precarious. To have done as much in them as Beardsley did, of actual solid work, is no mean achievement, apart from the fact that so much is work of almost microscopic delicacy. A great deal of it too, one is apt to forget, is work of unsullied beauty—free from the questionable traits which have hurt his reputation with the public. Finally it must not be lost sight of that the *rôle* he played was that of a satirist ; that in depicting vice he held it up for scourging ; that in exaggerating its fanciful side he but accentuated its squalid and horrible reality.

Poor Beardsley ! His death has removed a quaint and amiable personality from amongst us ; a butterfly who played at being serious, and yet a busy worker who played at being a butterfly. Outwardly he lived in the sunshine, airing bright wings. Inwardly no one can tell how he suffered or strove. It is well to avoid self-righteousness in judging him. As the wise pastrycook says in *Cyrano*,—

" Fourni, n'insulte pas ces divines cigales."

H. C. MARILLIER

Kelmscott House
Hammersmith
January 1899

EARLY SKETCH OF HOLYWELL STREET. BY PERMISSION OF MR. C. B. COCHRAN

A SCENE FROM "MANON LESCAUT." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 4

A SCENE FROM "MANON LESCAUT."
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF
MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 5

A SCENE FROM "MANON LESCAUT."
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF
MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 6

LA DAME AUX CAMÉLIAS.

REPRODUCED FROM A WATER-COLOUR ON THE FLY-LEAF OF A COPY OF "LA DAME AUX CAMÉLIAS" GIVEN TO AUBREY BEARDSLEY BY ALEXANDRE DUMAS, FILS

Plate 7

Plate 8

A SCENE FROM "MADAME BOVARY."
REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF
MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 9

MADAME BOVARY. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 10

JOAN OF ARC. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 11

FRONTISPIECE TO BALZAC'S "CONTES DRÔLATIQUES." BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

PHÈDRE. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 12

Plate 13

MANON LESCAUT. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 14

BEATRICE CENCI. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 15

FRANCESCA DI RIMINI (DANTE). BY PERMISSION OF MR. MORE ADEY

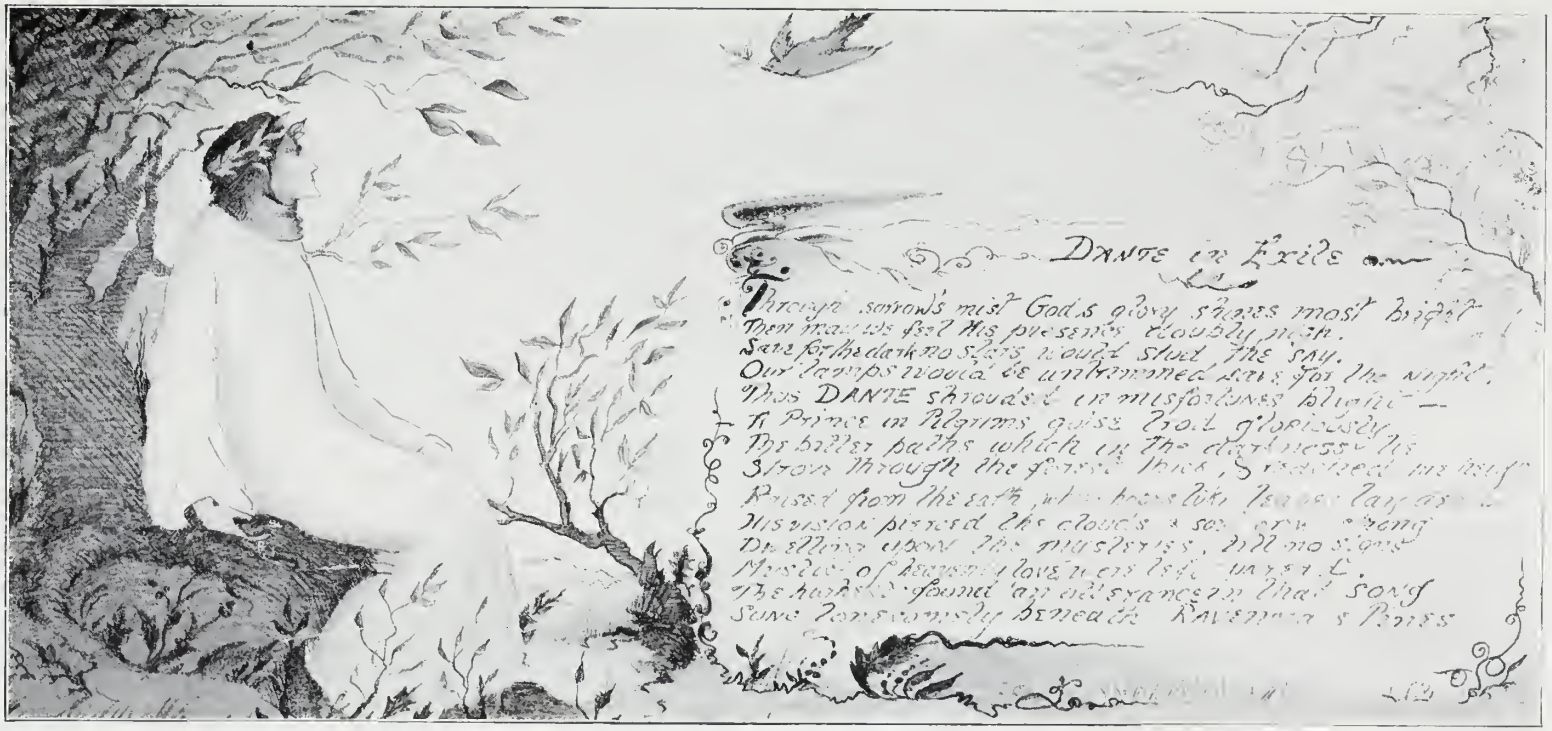
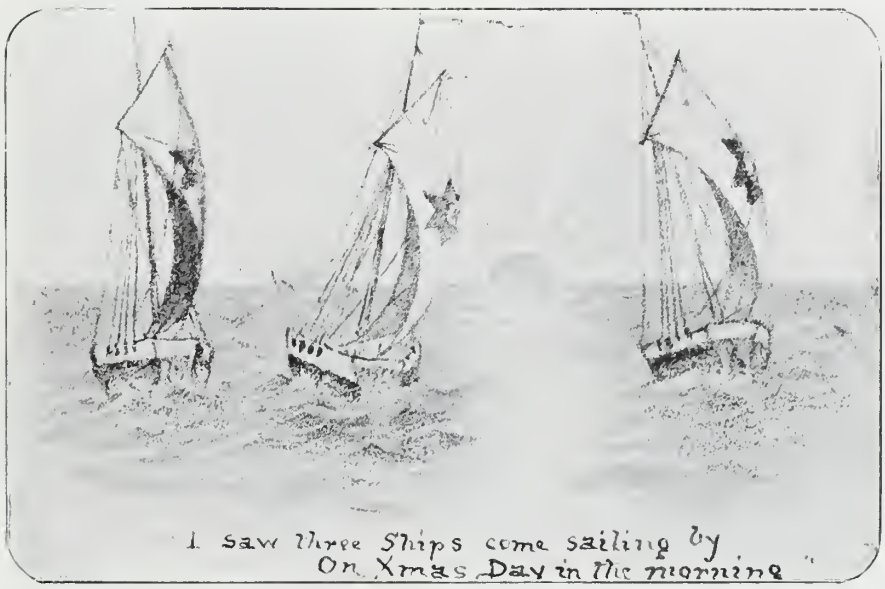

DANTE in Exile
Through sorrow's mist God's glory shines most bright
Then mantles first His presence closely near.
Save for the dark no stars would shut the sky.
Our lamps would be unlit, save for the night.
Thus DANTE shrouded in misfortune's blight —
A Prince in Pilgrim's guise trod gloriously
His bitter paths which in the darkness lie
Show through the fierce thick
Burst from the earth
His vision pierced the cloud's
Dwelling upon the mysteries, till no signs
Marked of Assembly love in its last unrest.
The hawks soared 'gin the evening that song
Sung Tenebrously beneath Ravenna's Pines

Plate 16

DANTE IN EXILE. BY PERMISSION OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY



"I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING BY." BY PERMISSION OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY ⊠ ⊠ ⊠ ⊠

Plate 17

Plate 18

HAIL MARY. PENCIL SKETCH. BY PERMISSION OF MR. F. H. EVANS

TWO FIGURES IN AN ATTIC. INK AND WASH SKETCH. BY PERMISSION OF MR. F. H. EVANS

THE WITCH OF ATLAS. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

MOLIÈRE. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 21

DIE GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG. BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 22

SOLEIL COUCHANT. BY PERMISSION OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY

Plate 23

TANNHÄUSER. BY PERMISSION OF DR. ROWLAND THURNAM

WITHERED SPRING. BY PERMISSION OF DR. ROWLAND THURNAM

"PERSEUS." (DESIGN IN INK FOR A PANEL; UNFINISHED.) BY PERMISSION OF MR. F. H. EVANS

Plate 26

A PENCIL SKETCH OF FIGURES, FROM THE BACK OF "PERSEUS." BY PERMISSION OF MR. F. H. EVANS

Plate 27

Plate 28

HAMLET. FROM "THE BEE" MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 1892

"PERSEUS AND THE MONSTRE." FROM A PENCIL DRAWING IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. AYMER VALLANCE. BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. CASSELL AND CO., LIMITED

Plate 29

THE PROCESSION OF JEANNE D'ARC. BY PERMISSION OF MR. F. H. EVANS

Plate 30

THE LITANY OF MARY MAGDALEN.
BY PERMISSION OF MR. MORE ADEY

Plate 31

THE VIRGIN AND THE LILY. BY PERMISSION OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY

Plate 32

A PORTRAIT OF AUBREY BEARDSLEY BY HIMSELF. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 33

INCIPIT VITA NOVA. BY PERMISSION OF MR. MORE ADEY ⊠ ⊠

Plate 34

Plate 35

A HEAD. BY PERMISSION
OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY

Plate 36

ADORAMUS TE. BY PERMISSION OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY

Plate 37

A CHRISTMAS CAROL. BY PERMISSION OF MR. HAMPDEN GURNEY

SANDRO BOTTICELLI. FROM A DRAWING IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. AYMER VALLANCE. BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. CASSELL AND CO., LIMITED

Plate 38

Plate 39

A BOOK-MARK. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MR. R. B. ROSS

Plate 40

HERMAPHRODITUS. BY PERMISSION OF MR. JULIAN SAMPSON

Plate 41

VIGNETTE. FOR MALLARMÉ'S
"L'APRÈS-MIDI D'UN FAUNE"

ANGEL WITH ORGAN. FROM A SKETCH IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. AYMER VALLANCE. BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. CASSELL AND CO., LIMITED

Plate 42

VIGNETTE. FROM A DRAWING IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. AYMER VALLANCE. BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. CASSELL AND CO., LIMITED

Plate 43

MR. HENRY ARTHUR JONES AND HIS BAUBLE. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 44

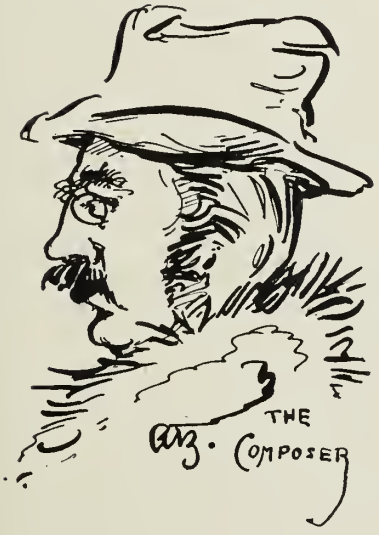
FOUR DESIGNS FOR "THE NEW COINAGE." BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET" ⊠ ⊠ ⊠

Plate 45

SIR HENRY IRVING AS "BECKET."
BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR
OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 46

MISS ELLEN TERRY IN "BECKET." BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"



FOUR SKETCHES FROM "BECKET," AT THE LYCEUM. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 48

TWO SKETCHES FROM "BECKET," AT THE LYCEUM. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

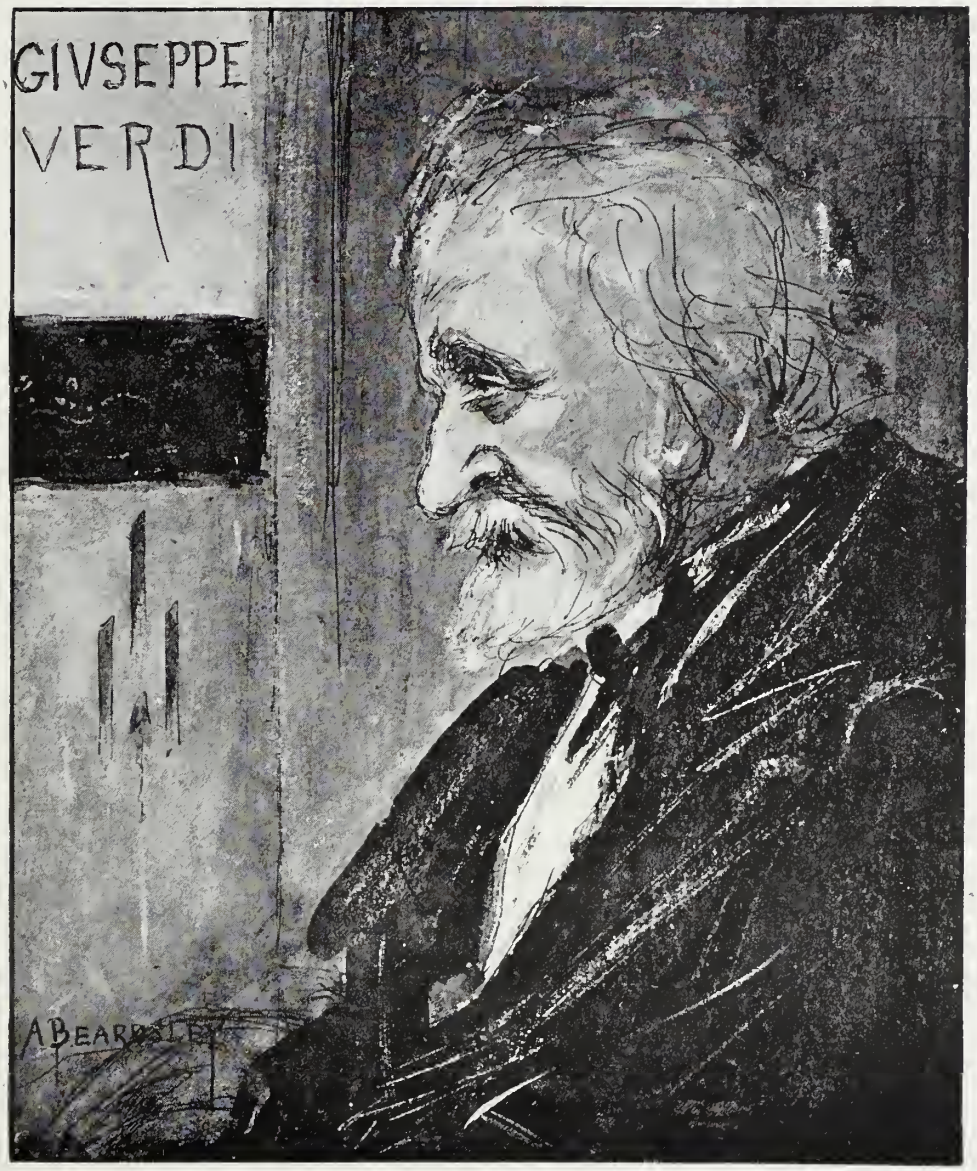
Plate 49

ÉMILE ZOLA AND THE ACADÉMIE FRANÇAISE. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 50

PORTRAIT OF ÉMILE ZOLA. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 51



PORTRAIT OF VERDI. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 52

SKETCHES OF MR. AND MRS. BANCROFT IN "DIPLOMACY," AT THE GARRICK THEATRE. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

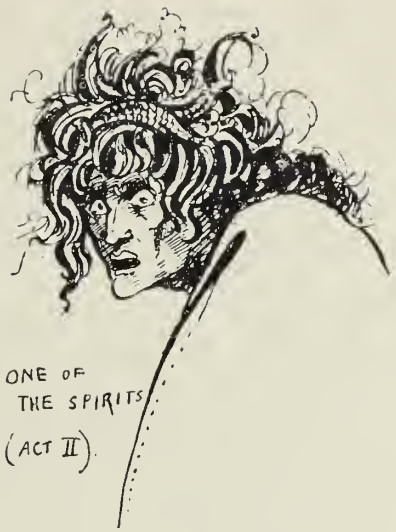
Plate 53

"ÆNEAS" ON THE LINKS. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

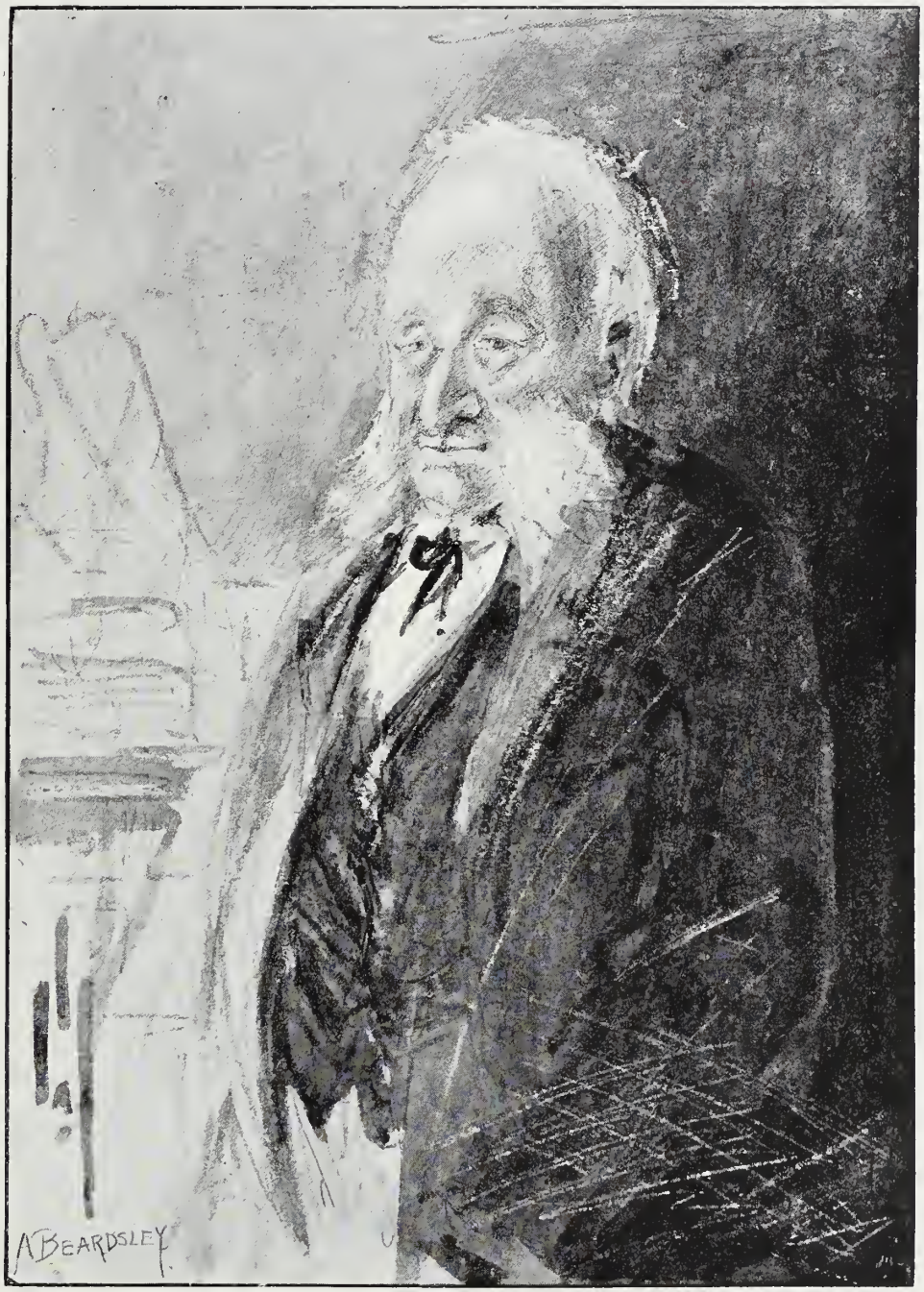
Plate 54

TWO SKETCHES FROM "ORPHEUS," AT THE LYCEUM. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET" ⊠ ⊠ ⊠

Plate 55



TWO SKETCHES FROM "ORPHEUS," AT THE LYCEUM. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"



PORTRAIT OF JULES FERRY. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 57

MR. HARRISON'S IDEAL NOVELIST.
BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR
OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 58

SKETCH OF MR. PENNELL AS "THE DEVIL OF NOTRE DAME." BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL BUDGET"

Plate 59

COVER DESIGN FOR "THE STUDIO" (REDUCED). TWO STATES. BY PERMISSION OF MR. CHARLES HOLME

Plate 60

Plate 61

"SIEGFRIED." FROM "THE STUDIO." BY PERMISSION OF MR. CHARLES HOLME ⊠

THE BIRTHDAY OF MADAME CIGALE. FROM "THE STUDIO." BY PERMISSION OF MR. CHARLES HOLME

Plate 62

LES REVENANTS DE MUSIQUE. FROM "THE STUDIO." BY PERMISSION OF MR. CHARLES HOLME ✠ ✠ ✠

Plate 63

DESIGN FOR "SALOME." FROM "THE STUDIO." BY PERMISSION OF MR. CHARLES HOLME

Plate 64

Plate 65

BORDER DESIGN. FROM
"LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

The achieuing of the Sangreal.

THE ACHIEVING OF THE SANGREAL.
FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

THIS, AND THE EIGHTEEN DESIGNS WHICH FOLLOW, ARE REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. J. M. DENT AND CO.

Plate 66

Plate 67

MERLIN. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 68

VIGNETTE. FROM " LE MORTE D'ARTHUR "

Plate 69

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 70

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 71

LA BEALE ISOUD AT JOYOUS GARD.
FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 72

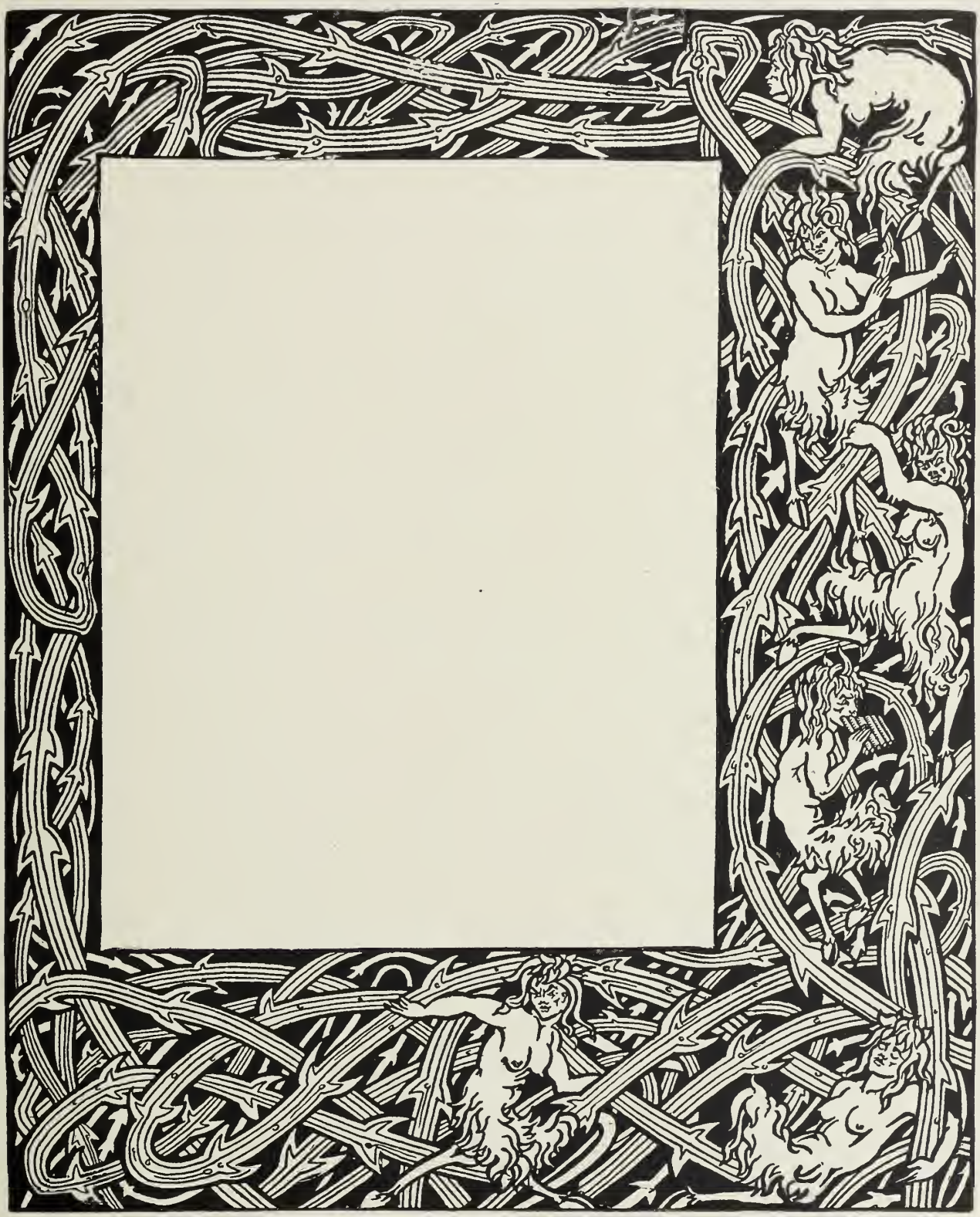
VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 73

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 74

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"



BORDER DESIGN. FROM
" LE MORTE D'ARTHUR "

Plate 76

HEADPIECE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 77

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 78

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 79

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 80

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 81

HOW QUEEN GUENEVER MADE HER A NUN. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

Plate 82

COVER DESIGN. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

"OF A NEOPHYTE, AND HOW THE BLACK ART WAS REVEALED UNTO HIM." BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL MAGAZINE"

Plate 83

THE KISS OF JUDAS. BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETOR OF "THE PALL MALL MAGAZINE" ⊠ ⊠ ⊠ ⊠

Plate 84

Plate 85

VIGNETTE. FROM "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"

LA COMÉDIE AUX ENFERS.
BY PERMISSION OF MR.
JOSEPH PENNELL

Plate 86

A SUGGESTED REFORM IN BALLET COSTUME (UNFINISHED DRAWING). REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MR. JOSEPH PENNELL

Plate 87

DESIGN FOR FRONTISPIECE TO "VIRGILIUS THE SORCERER." BY PERMISSION OF MR. DAVID NUTT

Plate 88

DESIGN FOR FRONTISPIECE OF BJÖRNSON'S DRAMA "PASTOR SANG." BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO. AND MR. ELKIN MATHEWS

FRONTISPIECE. FROM "BON MOTS." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. J. M. DENT AND CO.

Plate 90

DESIGN. FROM "BON MOTS." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. J. M. DENT AND CO.

Plate 91

DESIGN. FROM "BON MOTS." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. J. M. DENT AND CO.

Plate 92

DESIGN. FROM "BON MOTS." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. J. M. DENT AND CO.

Plate 93

Plate 94

ADA LUNDBERG. BY PERMISSION OF MR. JULIAN SAMPSON

Plate 95

DESIGN FOR COVER OF
"KEYNOTES"

Plate 96

DESIGN FOR COVER OF
"THE DANCING FAUN"

DESIGN FOR COVER OF
" POOR FOLK "

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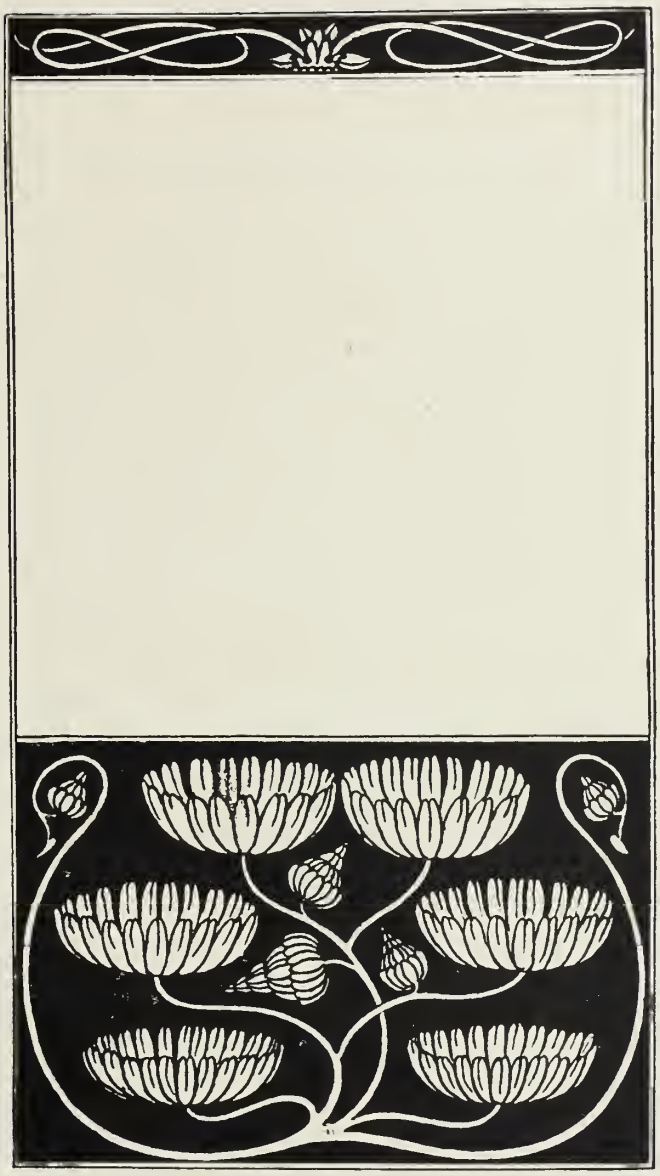

Plate 98

DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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DESIGN FOR COVER OF "THE GREAT GOD PAN"

DESIGN FOR COVER OF
"DISCORDS"

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DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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DESIGN FOR COVER OF "THE WOMAN WHO DID"

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DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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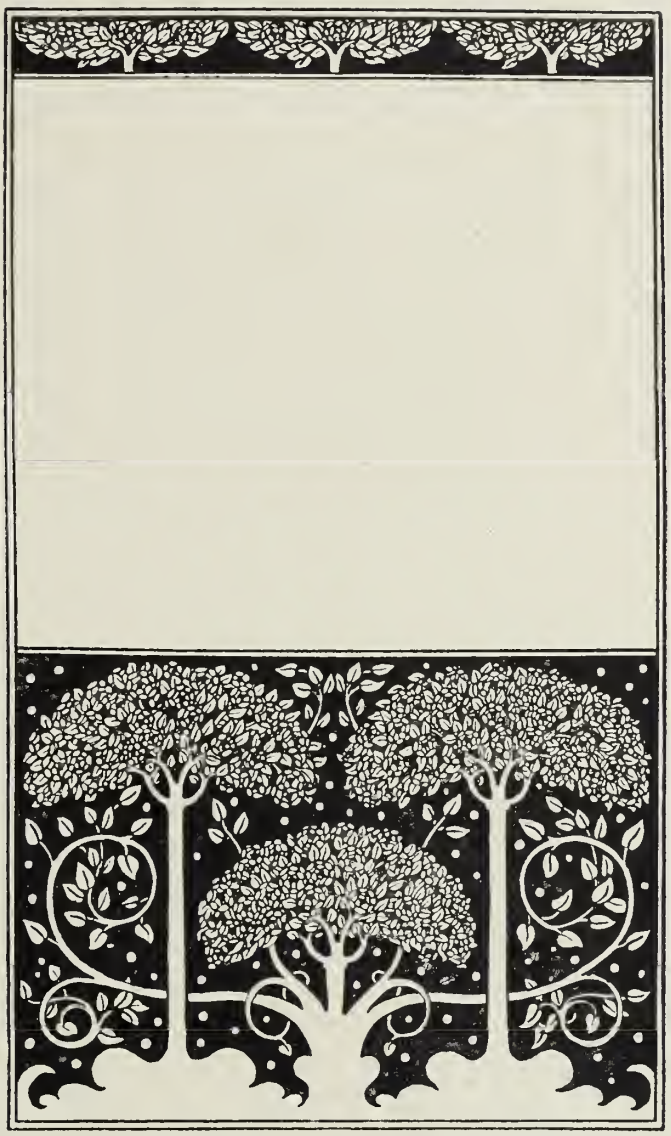

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DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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DESIGN FOR COVER OF
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DESIGN FOR COVER OF "THE MOUNTAIN LOVERS"

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DESIGN FOR COVER OF "THE WOMAN WHO DIDN'T"

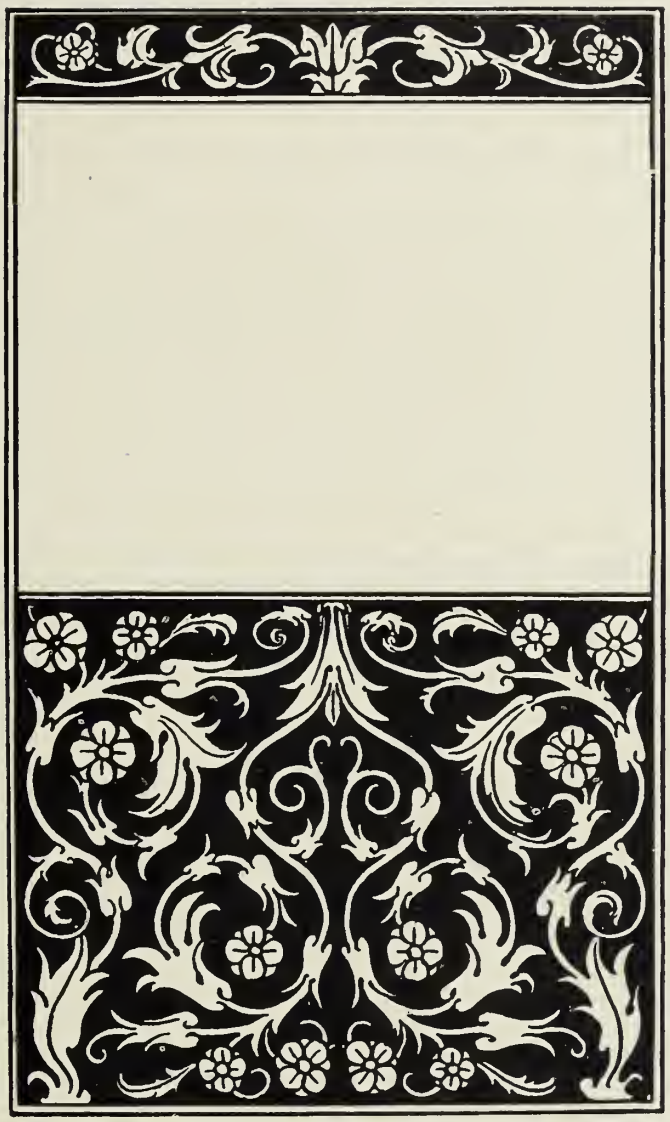

Plate 113

DESIGN FOR COVER OF "THE THREE IMPOSTORS"

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DESIGN FOR TITLE-PAGE OF
"PAGAN PAPERS"

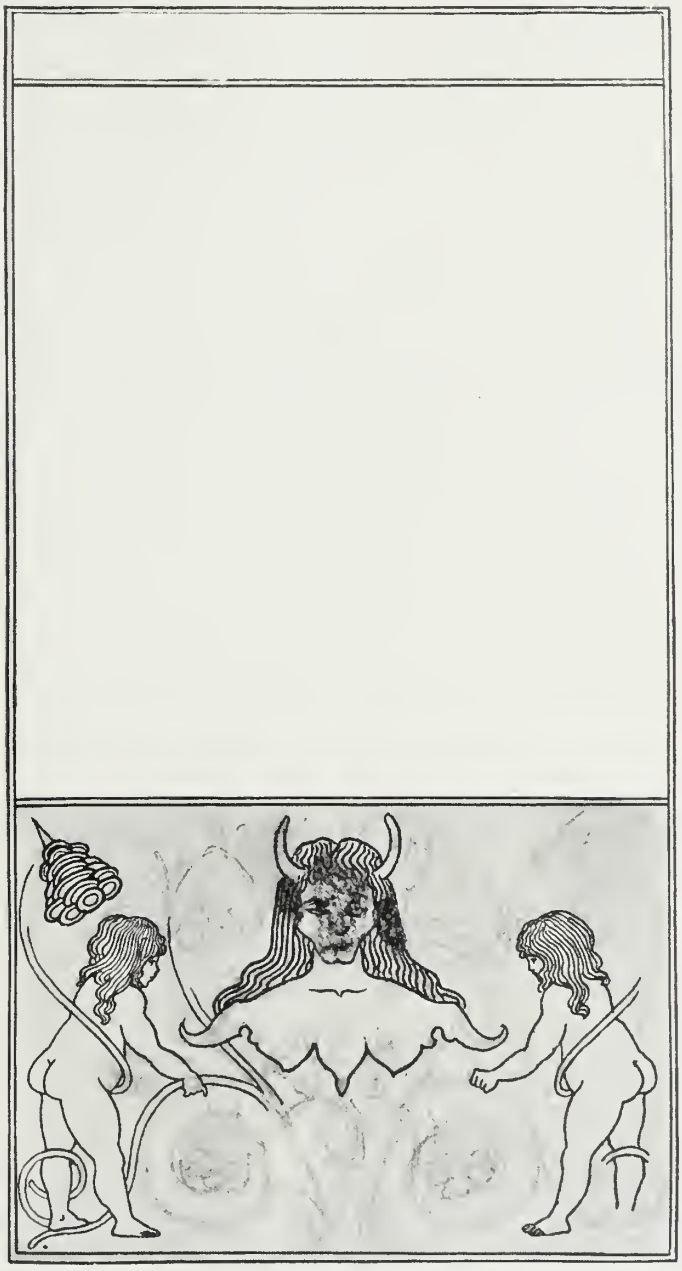


Plate 120

UNFINISHED SKETCH FOR
"THE GREAT GOD PAN"

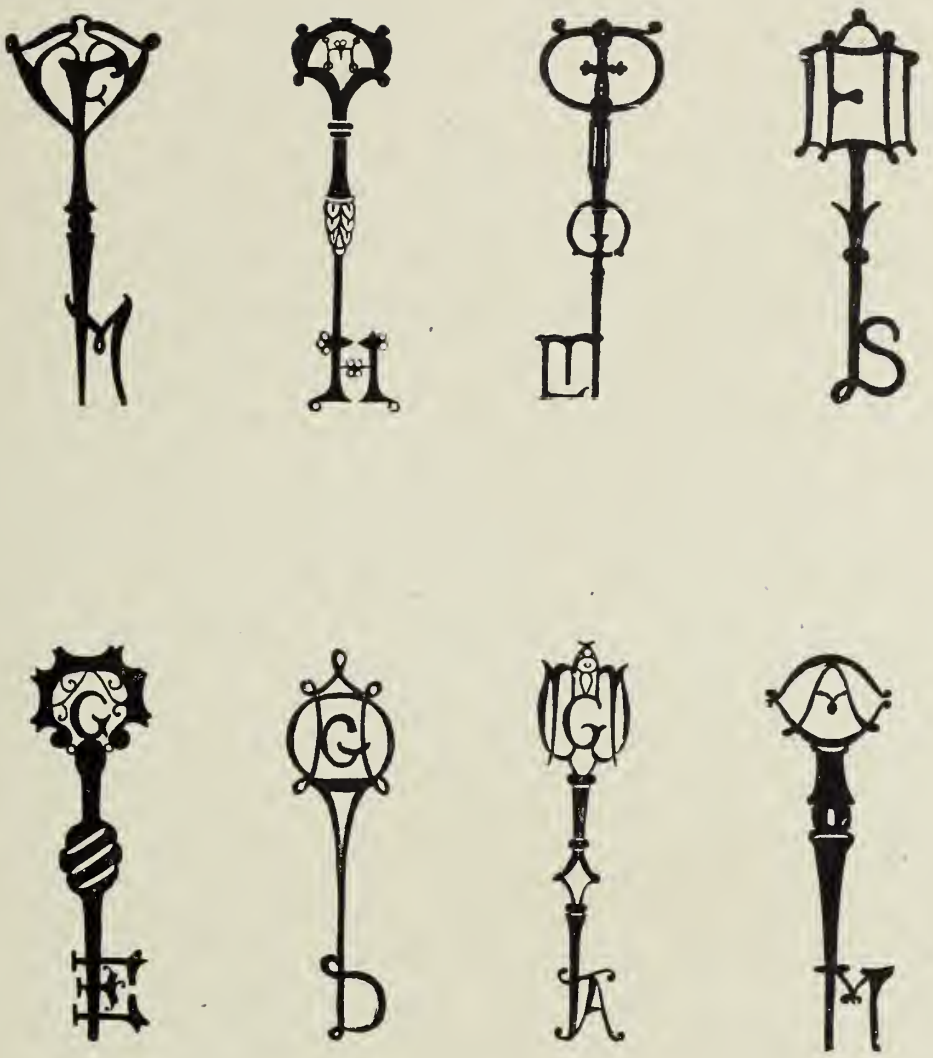
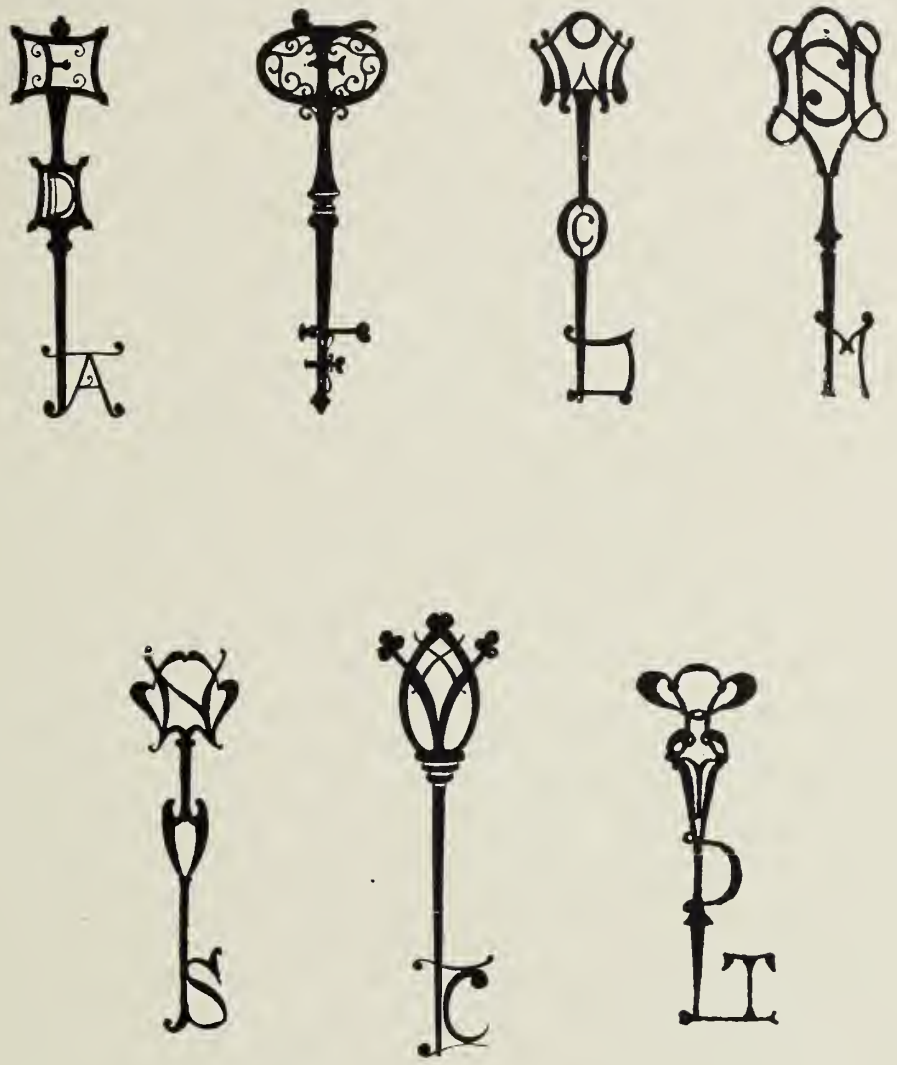


Plate 121

EIGHT INITIAL KEYS, FROM BACKS OF "KEYNOTES" SERIES



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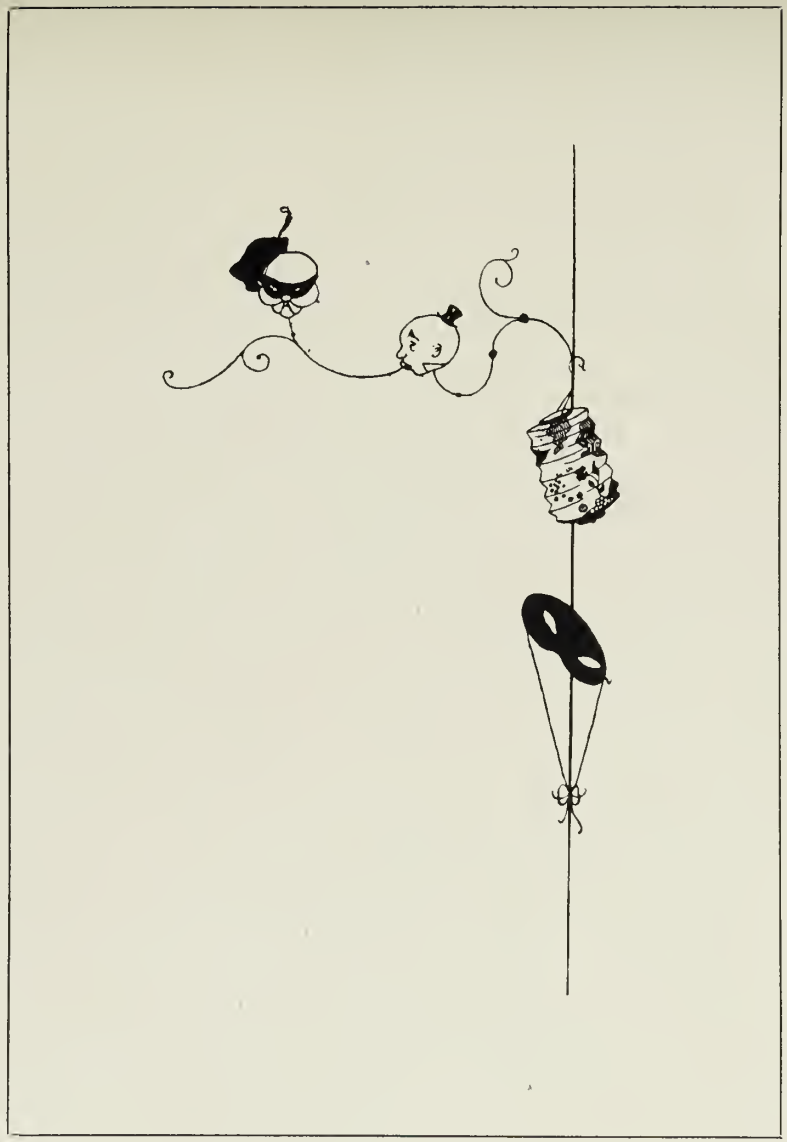
HEADPIECE. BY PERMISSION OF MR. HENRY REICHARDT

Plate 126

HEADPIECE. BY PERMISSION
OF MR. HENRY REICHARDT

Plate 127

HEADPIECE. BY PERMISSION
OF MR. HENRY REICHARDT



DESIGN FOR MENU OF PLAYGOERS' CLUB. BY PERMISSION OF MR. CARL HENTSCHEL

THE SNARE OF VINTAGE. FROM "LUCIAN'S TRUE HISTORY." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. LAWRENCE AND BULLEN

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DREAMS. FROM "LUCIAN'S TRUE HISTORY." REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. LAWRENCE AND BULLEN

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DESIGN. INTENDED FOR "LUCIAN'S TRUE HISTORY," BUT NOT PUBLISHED

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AVENUE THEATRE POSTER. FOR
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"THE PSEUDONYM LIBRARY" POSTER. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MR. T. FISHER UNWIN

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SKETCH PORTRAIT OF HIMSELF

SKETCH PORTRAIT OF
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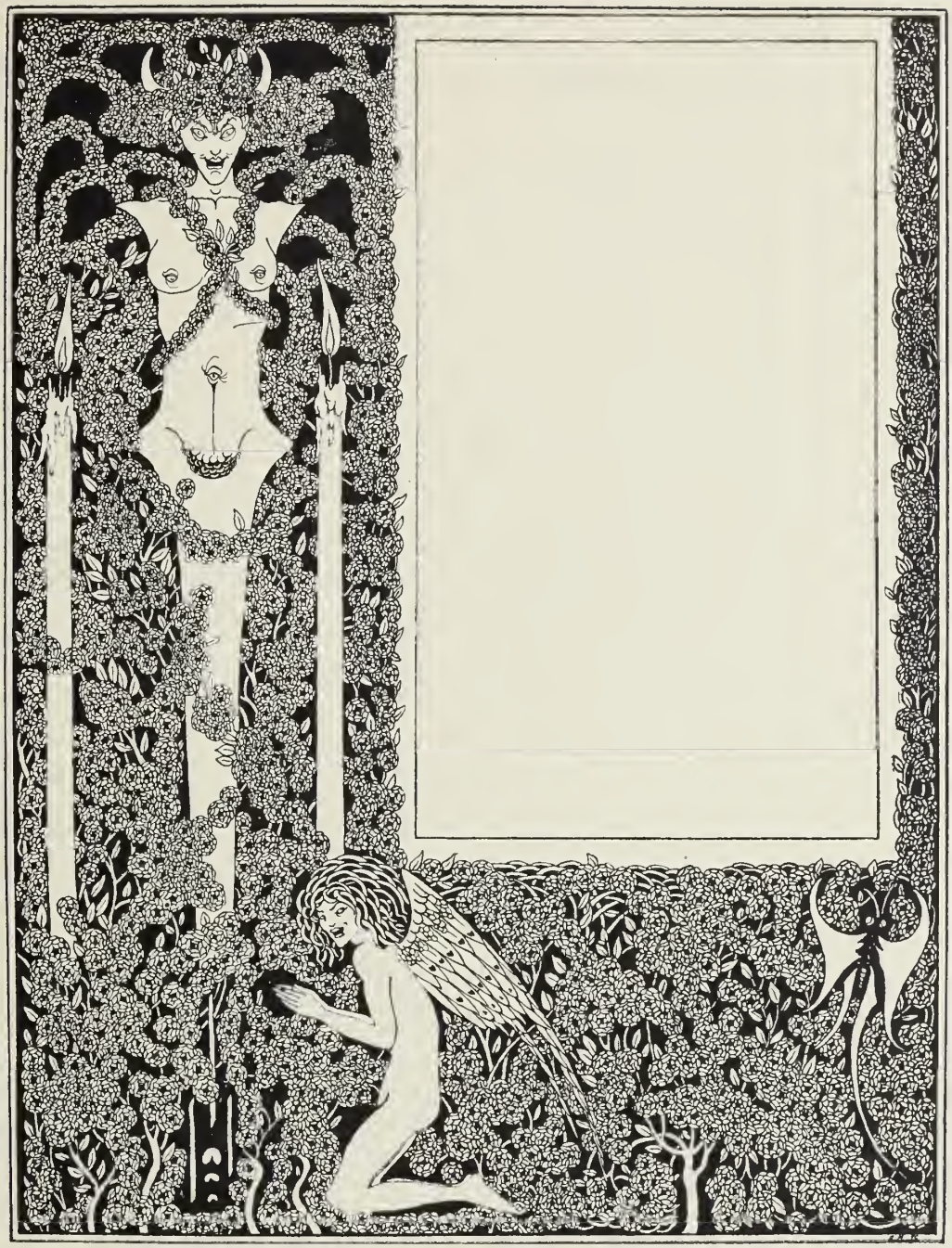
THE FAT WOMAN. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF MRS. MARTINEAU

Plate 138

Plate 139

DESIGN FOR FRONT COVER
OF "SALOME"



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DESIGN FOR THE TITLE-PAGE OF "SALOME"

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DESIGN FOR TAILPIECE.
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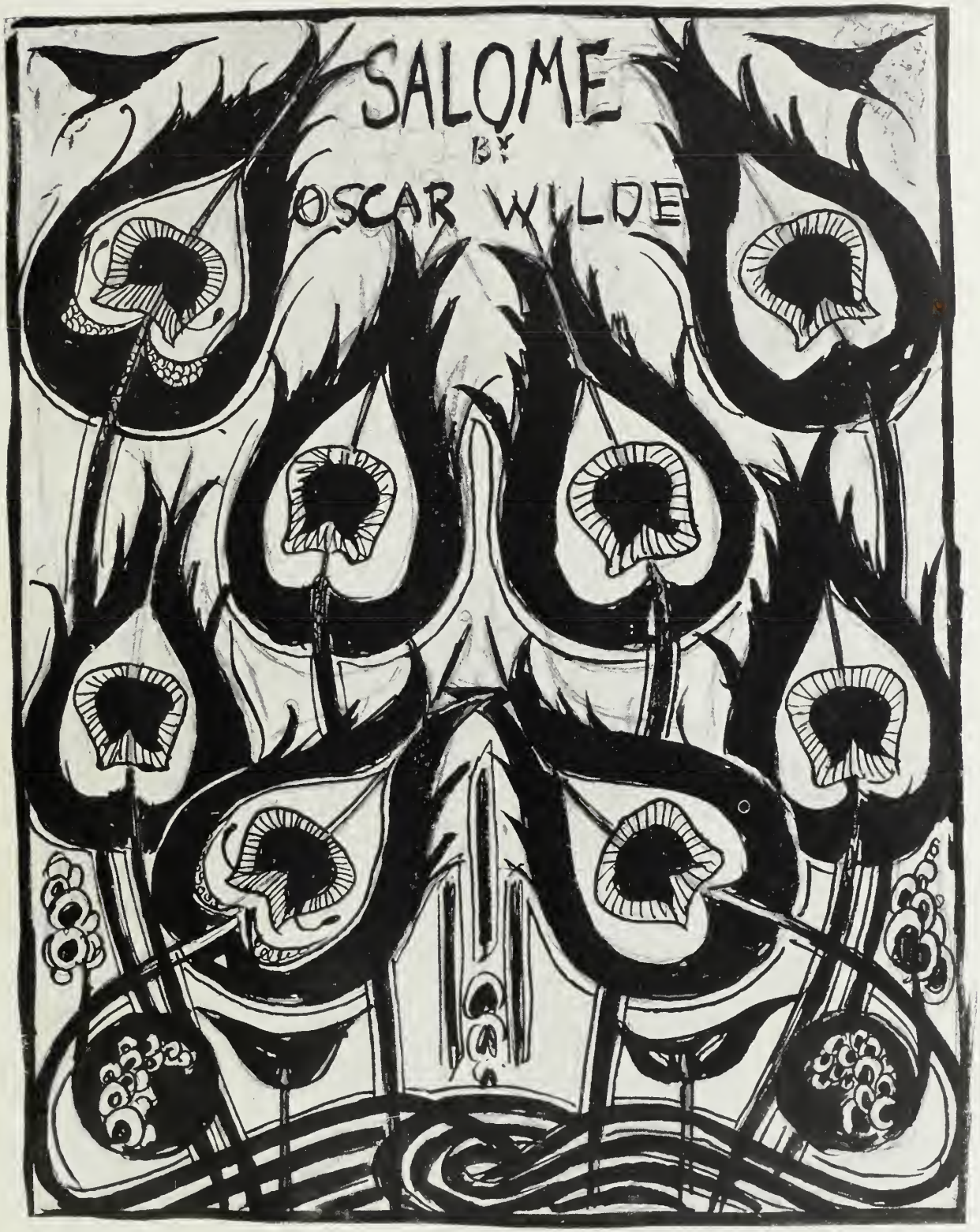

ORIGINAL SKETCH FOR THE COVER OF "SALOME"

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